

LOUISIANA TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WETLANDS CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

MAY 29, 2008

RECORD OF AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Kevin Norton, NRCS State Conservationist, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m., and welcomed the meeting participants. (See attendance list attached.) Each member introduced themselves to the committee. Norton reviewed the agenda and commented on the highlights of items to be discussed.

Steve Carmichael, NRCS, State Resource Conservationist, discussed the last committee meeting minutes and a special meeting concerning adding an incentive practice for environmental benefits provided by crawfish farming operations was reviewed. The minutes were approved as recommended by the committee.

◆ EQIP, WHIP and WRP UPDATE

Leslie Michael, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, gave a FY 2008 WHIP program update. The FY 2008 WHIP allocation is \$660,314 (one and one-half times more than FY 2007). The total applications received were 168 with 78 applications promoted to contracts. The percentage of state allocation obligated funds for WHIP is 97.2 percent.

Michael discussed the FY 2008 EQIP Program. The FY 2008 EQIP allocation is \$13,546,218. The total applications received were 2,222 with 806 applications promoted to contracts. The percentage of state allocation obligated for EQIP is 98.3 percent for general EQIP and 96.6 percent for ground and surface water.

Michael discussed the FY 2008 WRP Program. The Louisiana program to date received 610 total recorded easements for 224,359 recorded acres. Total easements restored were 521 for a total of 187,553 acres restored. The total cost of easement acquisition is \$174,958,338 with the average cost of easement \$778 per acre with the average size tract 366 acres.



◆ **CRP UPDATE**

David Carnline, FSA, gave a CRP update. Total CRP participants in Louisiana are 4,616 for a total of 304,361 acres. There are 47 Louisiana parishes with active CRP contracts for an average rental rate of \$53.16.

CRP recently announced initiatives for LA CRP SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement) projects for a goal of 3,500 acres for coastal prairies and 1,700 acres for Bayou Bartholomew.

CRP project initiatives on the horizon are LA CREP II (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) projects for goal 28,000 acres for Mermentau Basin which includes CP2, CP9, and CP25 practices. Acreage goals may have to be reduced before implementation.

◆ **INTRODUCTION TO LOCALLY LED PROCESS**

Kevin Norton introduced the locally led process. Norton stated that NRCS wants to connect programs with the resource problems. It is voluntary conservation and NRCS's goal is get it on the land most effective for the benefit of natural resources and people on the lands. NRCS needs the committee to create understanding of these issues and to help identify what are the priority issues, the things most significant to all of Louisiana.

◆ **OVERVIEW OF THE LOCALLY LED PROCESS**

Steve Carmichael gave an overview of the locally led process. All the parishes in the state have identified the top resource concerns and prioritized them.

Members will be provided with a hard copy of the PowerPoint presentation on the locally led process.

Leslie Michael announced the timeline for the locally led process.

The committee members voted on state-wide resource concerns. The results were:

Resource Concern Points

Water – Water Quality Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water	11
Plants – Plant Condition Noxious and Invasive Plants	5
Animals – Fish and Wildlife Inadequate Cover / Shelter	4
Animals – Fish and Wildlife Habitat Fragmentation	4
Animals – Domestic Animals Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage	3 3
Animals – Fish and Wildlife Imbalance Among and Within Populations	3 3
Water – Water Quantity Excessive Runoff Flooding or Ponding	3
Soil – Soil Condition Organic Matter Depletion	3
Water – Water Quality Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity	2
Water – Water Quality Excessive Salinity in Surface Water	2
Animals – Domestic Animals Inadequate Shelter	2
Animals – Fish and Wildlife Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern	1

Animals – Fish and Wildlife Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species, Fish and Wildlife Species Listed or Proposed for Listing Under the Endangered species Act	1
Water – Water Quantity Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land	1
Water – Water Quantity Aquifer Overdraft	1
Water – Water Quality Harmful Levels of Petroleum in Groundwater	1
Water – Water Quality Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water	1
Plants – Threatened or Endangered Plant Species Declining Species, Species of Concern	1
Soil – Soil Condition Subsidence	1
Soil – Soil Erosion Sheet and Rill	1
Soil – Soil Erosion Shoreline	1
Soil – Soil Erosion Streambank	1
Animals – Domestic Animals Stress and Mortality	1

The results will be put on the web site.

♦ **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Kevin Norton stated that future LA State TAC Meetings will be held on a rotating meeting site in different cities. Kevin encouraged more agencies to participate in the LA State TAC Meetings.

Next Meeting Date – The meeting date of June 26, 2008, at the NRCS Lafayette Area Office Conference Room, 646 Cajundome Boulevard, Suite 127, at 10:00 a.m. was set.

12: 20 p.m. – Meeting Adjourned

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WETLANDS CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

MAY 28, 2008

LIST OF ATTENDEES

Kevin D. Norton, USDA-NRCS
Steve Carmichael, USDA-NRCS
Leslie Michael, USDA-NRCS
Tim Landreneau, USDA-NRCS
Johanna Pate, USDA-NRCS
Randy Cheveallier, USDA-NRCS
Steve Cruse, USDA-NRCS
David Carnline, USDA-FSA
Mike Olinde, LDWF
Ronnie Ulmer, TNC
Carroll Cordes, USGS
Ernest Girouard, LSU AgCenter
John Bowie, USEPA
Jan Boydstun, LDEQ
Emelise Cormier, LDEQ
Jeff Durand, LRGA/LCFA
Andy Dolan, USFWS
Charlotte Clavier, LA Thoroughbred Breeders Association